

Asian Business Association (ABA) Women in Business – An Inspiring Networking Evening

Host: Tony Matharu, Chairman, ABA and Managing Director, Grange Hotels

Panel Chair: Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce (LCCI)

Panel Speakers: Dr Kamel Hothi OBE, Gwynne Master, Tonia Buxton, Vanessa Vallely OBE, Trishna Bharadia

Tony Matharu, Chairman, Asian Business Association and Managing Director, Grange Hotels

Tony is Founder and Managing Director of Grange Hotels – ‘London’s Leading Independent Hotel Group’ – former winner of the “Best Small Hotel Company”. (Business Travel Awards), having graduated in Law and Economics at University.

His responsibilities include designing, building and managing 18 luxury 4-star and 5-star central London hotels. Tony is also Founder and Chairman of a global hospitality consultancy (Global Hospitality Services), which provides sales, marketing, technology and distribution services to over 250 hotels across the world.

Tony combines his passion for hospitality with philanthropy, sport and community engagement; acting as Founder and Chairman of Integrity International Trust – a company currently focussed on preventing the causes of sex trafficking, rescuing and rehabilitating victims and seeking prosecutions to breakdown the trafficking networks. He is also Founder and Chairman of IODR UK – a children’s emergency relief and development charity with projects mostly in the Indian Ocean Region; as London Chairman of the Lord’s Taverner’s - “giving young people a sporting chance”; as Vice President of the Oracle Head & Neck Cancer Research Trust; as Deputy Chairman of the Corporation of London’s ‘City Together’; as Chairman of the City of London’s ‘Vibrant & Culturally Rich City Group’; and as a Director of the London Business Improvement District (BID) – “In Mid Town”, now rebranded “Bee London”. Tony holds a number of Board and other positions in the Arts, charitable sector, and sport - particularly cricket and hockey, and he continues to play at representative and international levels.

Tony has founded many successful start-up organisations and companies. He was awarded ‘Hotelier of the Year’ in 2013; received a ‘Special Recognition Award for his “Contribution to London’s Success” and a ‘Technology and Innovation Award’ in 2014. He has recently been awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his contribution to the hospitality industry.

Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Peter Bishop is Deputy Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the ICC/World Chambers Federation International Certificate of Origin Council. Previously (2004-2013) he chaired the World ATA Carnet Council which oversees the trade facilitation regime for temporary imports and exports under the Istanbul Convention.

At the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) he is responsible for the Chamber’s international trade activities which include trade promotion – missions, events, Enterprise Europe Network activities and training – and facilitation. In a typical year the London Chamber organises 12 trade missions and 30 export seminars and issues over 140,000 export and import documents. In his capacity as chairman of the global group on certificates of origin he has addressed WCO, WTO, African Union and many other trade organisations globally on matters relating to trade. At LCCI he also has responsibility for the Chamber’s Asian Business Association and information service and is the editor of *London Business Matters* magazine and a member of the LCCI Board.

Peter holds an MSc in International Business from London University and is a writer and consultant on the mechanics of international trade including procedures and regulations. His books include the Export Handbook and the International Trade Manual (co-author).

Gwynne Master, Managing Director, Trade, Global Transaction Banking, Lloyds Bank

Gwynne is Global Head of GTB Trade, focused on end-to-end solutions for Lloyds Bank clients. Gwynne was previously Head of Global Transaction Banking (GTB) and Financial Institutions (FI)/NBFIs & International Sales. Prior experience includes Standard Chartered Bank, where Gwynne was head of Europe and Americas FI coverage. Gwynne also has significant International experience through her time at Barclays - developing a Commercial Bank regional hub in Singapore and leading Asia FI.

Dr Kamel K Hothi OBE

Kamel came to Britain in the 60's for a better life only to encounter racism and hardship with several families horded in single properties. From cashier to Director, she experienced first-hand the struggles of smashing glass ceilings, discrimination and gender imbalance across the banking sector over 4 decades resulting in forming the BAME and Women's network. This intrapreneur drive pushed her on to develop the Asian Strategy, cultural training initiatives, new communication campaigns and products for Lloyds Banking Group.

She went on to lead the bank's award winning 250th anniversary campaign, developed various CSR programmes raising a record breaking £20m over 6 years. Her determination to change the shape of corporate values and interaction between colleagues and communities resulted in the development of a new skills volunteering strategy attracting a collaboration of universities and the Cabinet Office.

Kamel is ranked in the top 100 most influential black, Asian and minority ethnic leaders in the UK by the FT and was awarded an OBE for services to promoting diversity in banking.

Now after 38 years in Banking she sits on several boards as an Advisor / Trustee including the Queen's Commonwealth Trust, Teenage Cancer Trust, Alzheimer's Soc, Memusi Foundation and a Non-Executive Director on a number of companies including Sterling Media, TLC Lions where she is supporting FTSE companies on their inclusion and well-being strategies ~ all whilst still balancing the demands of a traditional Indian extended family with 4 generations living in one household.

Tonia Buxton

Tonia has been immersed in food from a young age, from the forced apprenticeship in her Mum's kitchen where she started to understand the power of good food. She went on to develop a modern healthy European cuisine and cooked in a gourmet chalet in France, but her real love is Greek, Cypriot & Mediterranean food.

Tonia has become the face of Greek food and culture. Her RTS award winning show 'My Greek Kitchen' has had to successful series and then extended to a series called My Cypriot Kitchen. The series are a global phenomenon, shown on The Discovery Channels Real Time, Travel & Living and Home & Health. It is presently being shown on the Together Channel. Then it aired, it as The Discovery Channels flagship show. The Independent newspaper said *'you could feel the warmth of the Greek sun on your face whilst watching'*. Each show includes food, history culture & to date is shown in 30 countries globally.

Tonia Is a regular contributor to ITV's GMB & Lorraine shows, Channel Four's Sunday Brunch & BBC's Saturday Kitchen. She is a successful speaker at functions talking about Lifestyle, Food, Aging Ungracefully, Family & Life.

Trishna Bharadia

A multi award winning advocate and patient engagement champion in the areas of chronic illness and disability, with specific expertise in multiple sclerosis. She works full-time as an analyst/translator for a business intelligence firm but in her spare time raises awareness and improves support for people living with health conditions. Everyone will be a patient at some time in their life and Trishna, since her MS diagnosis in 2008, has been working on strengthening the patient voice throughout the healthcare journey.

Trishna works with multiple stakeholders, in areas including patient engagement, health literacy, diversity issues in healthcare, and co-production. She has become a much sought-after international speaker, particularly to inspire businesses to think outside the box and make the impossible possible. In 2015 her advocacy work even led her to being selected to participate in a special-four part edition of Strictly Come Dancing on BBC1.

Awards include: the Prime Minister's Office Points of Light Award 2018, WeAreTheCity Top 100 Rising Stars 2017, Women of the Year Foundation Woman of Achievement 2015, Precious Leadership Award 2016 and Asian Achievers Awards Woman of the Year 2018.

Vanessa Vallely OBE, Managing Director, WeAreTheCity

Vanessa is one of the UK's most well-networked women and has provided keynotes on a variety of career related topics for over 500 companies worldwide. Vanessa is also one of the UK's most prominent figures in gender equality and often provides guidance and consultancy to both government and corporate organisations who are seeking to attract, develop and retain their female talent. Vanessa was awarded her OBE in June 2018 for her services to women and the economy.

At the height of her successful 25 year career in the financial services, Vanessa launched the award winning WeAreTheCity.com in 2008 as a vehicle to help women progress in their careers. WeAreTheCity.com now has over 120,000 members and provides resources/conferences/awards/jobs to women across the UK. Vanessa is the also the -founder of UK wide diversity forum Gender Networks. Gender Networks (formerly The Network of Networks) brings together diversity leaders from 85 cross sector firms to share best practice on a quarterly basis.

Vanessa is also the author of the book "Heels of Steel: Surviving and Thriving in the Corporate World" which tracks her career and shares 13 chapters of tips to succeed in the workplace. Over the past ten years, she has been named Women in Banking & Finance's Champion for Women, Financial News Top 100 Rising Star, The International Alliance for Women Top 100 Women globally & Brummells Top 30 London Entrepreneurs. In 2015 Vanessa was in GQ UK's Top 100 Connected Women and the Evening Standard's 1000 Most Influential Londoners. Vanessa is a regular guest on TV and radio and also sits on the Government Digital Services advisory board.

Vanessa is also the Pearly Queen of The City of London, a tradition that has been in her family for over 100 years. She is an avid charity worker and sits on the board for for Cancer Research UK as one of its Women of Influence. Vanessa also sits on the Centenary Action Group founded by Dr Helen Pankhurst.

Keynotes and workshops include The Power of Profile, The Power of Mentoring, Speed Networking, Speed Mentoring, plus her Excel your Career workshop. Vanessa is also available as a panelist, facilitator and leadership development programme host. All talks can be tailored towards specific audiences.